

"Building Our Sense of Community"

Shelton State Courier

—Campus Newspaper—

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Shelton State Community College

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Women's fast-pitch Softball ... Comin' Atcha!



New campus fast-pitch sensation Christy Hanshaw will be serving up some spectacular stuff for the Lady Buccaneers this spring



Hanshaw will be serving up some spectacular stuff for the Lady Buccaneers this spring

By James A. Crawford II

Shelton State's women's softball team narrowly dropped a double-header to defending state champions Central Alabama to kick open the season Thursday, Feb. 19, at Gordon Davis Park in Cottondale to a medium-sized crowd and a roar of excitement.

Despite the losses, the team looked to have a good foundation.

"I thought we looked good. We were sound defensively. We just need to cut out some of our errors, but the attitudes were great. It doesn't get any harder than play-

ing the defending champs for your first game. I think all-in-all we're doing pretty good," says Bobby Ussery, women's softball head coach.

This year's softball team is in a way a new program. Although they've been around for many years this is the first season they will be using fast pitch. Also, due to budget cuts, each game day will be a double-header.

Shelton's women looked a bit nervous the first game but put on a good show. They seem to have adjusted well to the fast-pitch style.

The defense was tight. After allowing four runs in the first inning, Central could only squeeze three more the rest of the game. In the second game, the girls played much more relaxed. The offense generated five runs and the defense held Central to three runs until the top of the sixth inning when they had a scoring drive of three runs to win it by one.

"I'm real proud of these girls. We all but had the game till the last. Central just did what they

Softball cont. on pg. 3

Illustration by Scarlet Burns and James A. Crawford II

Ryan deGraffenried, called a great supporter, receives surprise honor

By Jim Shaw

On Friday, Feb. 19, a choked-up and surprised Ryan deGraffenried Jr. walked into the Shelton State lecture hall that would soon be named in his honor. It took him a couple of minutes to realize it, but a crowd of some 200 faculty and staff members, as well as friends, were there to honor him for his work with the college.

A prominent Tuscaloosa lawyer and citizen and former state senator, deGraffenried had the college's largest lecture hall named in his honor for the work he had done in the building of Shelton's state-of-the-art facility.

After a few words of tribute from Alabama School board member Sandra Ray, Shelton President Tom Umphrey took the podium and began to enumerate deGraffenried's many contributions. Umphrey said he was the

one with the vision to build the new campus when it became obvious years ago that the old Skyland Blvd. campus could not contain the college's growth.

Some of the many ways he helped Shelton include securing the funding for Shelton's athletic bus, which is still being used today. As a senator, he helped in the appropriations that funded the new fire college and helped purchase the new college land. He then "captained" the fund drive that raised money to equip the college, including the very seats and tables the guests were sitting at in the lecture hall.

Umphrey said deGraffenried was also responsible for the landscaping being done to the college at this time. Umphrey said that as long as the

Honor cont'd on pg. 3



Ryan deGraffenried (R), a surprised, humble and grateful honoree, chats at his reception with friend Paul Bryant Jr.

During nerve-wracking auditioning, the theatre department casts a Cinderella, a charming prince, and talented others

First in a several-part series

By Jacob Snyder

The magic spell has been cast, the clock has struck midnight for the first time, and now the theatre department has its carriage wheels turning on its spring production of *Cinderella*.

Auditions for the musical

were held Feb. 15 and 16, and the turnout, according to the director and stage manager was "amazing."

Representatives from all the branches of the Shelton community participated in the tryouts, including theatre, dance, and music students, but also faculty and staff members and the general student population.

Ranging from kids of nine or

ten to adults, from very experienced actors to many first-timers, the diversity of interest was staggering to the onlooker.

Stage manager Julie Arrington said, "I was very excited

Auditioning
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Be Found Nowhere Else*
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My Five Favorite "Black" Films

By Brian Roberts

February is black history month. The *Courier* thought it would benefit our readers to use this column to suggest movies that fit the month. The following is a list of what I feel are the five best, true-life films dealing with black history.

1. *Amistad* (1997)—Directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Djimon Hounsou, Anthony Hopkins, Mathew McConaughey, and Morgan Freeman. Set prior to the U.S. Civil War, *Amistad* tells the story of the court battles that decided the fate of a group of slaves who led a revolt against the captors on board the slave ship *La Amistad*. The film follows Cinque (Hounsou) as he tries to understand the culture that has enslaved him. Through the course of the film it is told that the eventual decision by the Supreme Court is the spark that begins fire that leads to the Civil War.

2. *Glory* (1989)—Directed by Edward Zwick, starring Denzel Washington, Morgan Freeman, and Matthew Broderick. This is the story of the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts during the Civil War. What makes this regiment important is that it was the first all-black regiment in the history of U.S. warfare. The soldiers in the 54th were not just fighting for their country, but they were fighting for the freedom of their people. Winner of three Academy Awards-- Best Supporting Actor (Washington), Best Cin-

ematography, and Best Sound.

3. *Hoop Dreams* (1994)—Directed by Steven James. A documentary that follows the lives of two black basketball players from the inner city as they travel different paths to reach the goal of playing professional basketball. Williams Gates and Arthur Agee are followed through high school and the beginning of their college careers. The documentary style allows the viewer to see what life is actually like for young black men who are trying to find success.

4. *Malcom X* (1992)—Directed by Spike Lee, starring Denzel Washington. The best of these five movies, and Spike Lee's best effort. Sadly this film was ignored by the Academy Awards, but that does not taint its greatness. This biopic tells the story of slain civil rights activist Malcom X. Upon his release from prison, he begins to teach the "faith of Sunni Muslim, angering many of his followers. The circumstances of his death are unknown, but many believe he was assassinated because of this change of faith.

5. *Rosewood* (1997)—Directed by John Seigleton, starring Ving Rhames, Jon Voigt and Don Cheadle. Set in the 1920s in the small black town of Rosewood, Fla., the film tells the story of the destruction of the town. A white woman in a neighboring city falsely accused a citizen of Rosewood of raping her, and in response to that lie, the town of Rosewood is destroyed, and its citizens killed.

Roberts reviews... *Life is Beautiful*



By Brian Roberts

It is unusual for a foreign language film to be nominated for the Academy Award for best picture. *Life is Beautiful* can not only claim that accomplishment, but seven other nominations as well.

From Italian film maker Roberto Benigni, the film is actually entitled *La vita e' bella*. This is the story of a man who will do anything for the people he loves. The first part of the film tells the story of Guido (Benigni) meeting his future wife, Dora, and continues until they have their first child, Joshua. This part of the film is reminiscent of a slap-stick Charley Chaplin film. The second part of the film takes place in a German concentration camp. Guido

and his family are Jewish, and are victims of the holocaust. In an attempt to protect Joshua, still very young, he convinces the child that the entire situation is a game, and that if he plays by the rules, he can win a wonderful prize.

Telling you that this is a comedy set during the holocaust might scare you off. Don't let it. Robert Benigni makes the premise work. In doing so he joins Orson Welles (*Citizen Kane*), Woody Allen (*Annie Hall*), and Warren Beatty (*Reds*) as the only four men to be nominated for writing, directing, and starring in the same film. It doesn't sound believable that Guido could convince his child that the atrocities he is seeing are all part of the game, but it is.

Benigni is able to make you laugh and break your heart in the same scene. Guido's undying love for his wife and son permeate his entire existence, and everything he does is an attempt to make them happy. At times Benigni reminded me of Jim Carrey. He is over the top. At other times, his emotion is so real that you believe that is his child that he trying to save.

While the tone of the movie

changes drastically when the family is taken to the concentration camp, the theme does not change. The same quick thinking and humor that allows him to capture his wife's heart allows him to keep his son safe in the concentration camp.

Along with Benigni's three nominations, the film also received nominations for best picture, best foreign language film, best editing. The unfortunate thing in this situation is that in five of seven categories, this film would stand a strong chance of winning in another year. Despite this year being an overall disappointment, the quality of the films that did turn out well is too stiff for *Life is Beautiful* to receive the acclaim it deserves. It should easily win the wide open best-actor award.

Life is Beautiful is wonderfully funny and powerfully emotional, almost entirely due to the work of Roberto Benigni. It has not made it to Tuscaloosa yet, but if it does, I recommend this film for anyone. The film plays in Italian with English subtitles, rated PG-13. 125 minutes.

Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to seven more issues this school year: two each month in March and April; one each month is scheduled for May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the new Shelton editorial office at 391-2406.

"Keep looking up!"

One of the most noticeable and easily recognizable winter constellations is the mighty hunter—Orion. He is followed in the sky by his two hunting dogs—Canis Major (Big Dog) and Canis Minor (Little Dog) that are themselves constellations.

February and March are ideal months to observe this threesome, for they are already in the sky at sunset. To locate them, simply look south and find three equally bright stars in a perfect straight line—this is Orion's belt. Below these belt stars, you will find his sword and legs and above the belt his shoulders and head. To Orion's lower left is the very bright star Sirius—the dog star—that makes up the upper shoulder area of the Big dog constellation; below this star is the dog's legs and tail. To Orion's upper left is another bright star—Progon—that, along

By Dr. Lee Albritton

with a nearby star makes up the little dog constellation. These two dog stars and Orion's upper left shoulder star—Betelgeuse—make up a huge triangle called the winter triangle.

Ancient myth has it that Orion, while hunting in the woods, came upon seven beautiful sisters, and they were somewhat frightened. Because of this, Orion and the seven sisters were put in the sky, and Orion's fate was to chase these beautiful sisters across the sky, night after night, but never catch them!

Sure enough, look to Orion's right and you will find a small cluster of stars—the Pleiades—that goes by the familiar name—the seven sisters. So keep looking up, and enjoy Orion and his dogs as well as the seven sisters.

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students

are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Honor cont'd from pg. 3

campus is here "Ryan will have his footprints and his handprints all over the college."

During the ceremony, Umphrey said, "I love Ryan most because when you find yourself in trouble, he will be there to help you and nourish you along."

"Ryan's accomplishments and work go far beyond Shelton State. He is recognized nationally as a leader who has served his state and community well. Ryan deGraffenried is one of the major reasons Tuscaloosa is such a great place to live and work. He loves and cares deeply for West Alabama," commented Umphrey.

By his reaction, the audience could tell deGraffenried was, indeed, taken by surprise by the honor. He took several moments to compose himself and then managed to say only a simple "Thank you." Then he commented that he was happy to have sent two of his three children to Shelton, though, as Umphrey noted, they could have gone anywhere.

During the reception in his honor, deGraffenried told the *Courier*, "This is the nicest thing that has ever happened to me. I am honored. There are more deserving people, but I am honored to be recognized."

Auditioning cont'd on pg. 3

to see such a wonderful turnout of auditioners for a show at Shelton." Arrington said about 40 people auditioned and most of them found a role in the big musical production.

The finalists for the part of Cinderella were Laura McCray, Jessica Smith and Dedra Harris. The decision, with the input of the music, dance and theatre faculty, was by all reports a difficult one. In the end, Jessica Smith, came out wearing the glass slippers.

Kevin Jackson, a music student, was cast as the charming prince. The evil stepmother went to Sue Richardson and the two step-sisters went to two male actors—Leif Evans and Desmond Porbeni. The part of the king went to Eric Curtis and the queen went to Shelton English instructor Juliella Parsons. The godmother role went to Melody Bolin and the herald to Hillary Burke.

The fairy godfather behind what stands to be a magical production is director Michael Carr. He is operating at a disadvantage because everyone in the production had to be a part of the Shelton family. "Cinderella is the beginning of a Shelton State tradition the students will be very proud of. I hope everyone will come out and see it!"

Cast of Theatre Department's Cinderella

April 15-18 in the Bean-Brown Theatre of Shelton State

Cinderella: Jessica Smith
Prince: Kevin Jackson
King: Eric Curtis
Queen: Juliella Parsons
Stepmother: Sue Richardson
Godmother: Melody Bolin
Portia: Desmond Porbeni
Joy: Leif Evans
Herald: Hillary Burke
Ensemble: Julia Apodaca, Amanda Anderson, Phillip Bambarger, Julie Ann Burandt, Abbey Chambers, Sara-Margaret Coker, Joey Dodson, Melissa Elliot, Anastasia Frangoulis, Amy Galloway, Courtney Hummer Graham, Stefanie Harris, Jessica Horton, Anne Elizabeth Jay, Jesika Mann, Alissa Metzger, Carin Metzger, Kevin Norris, Andrew Richardson, Annie Stapp, Monnish Swaim, Daphane Terry, Julie Viselli, Eric Walker, David Carr Zeiler



Jessica Smith tried out for Cinderella and snagged the lead

Public Service Announcement

Shelton to host Health Fair

Shelton State will be hosting a Health Fair to kick off spring break, Monday, March 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Wellness Center.

Vendors such as Manna Grocery and Buffalo Rock will be providing free snacks and samples. Information booths on health, fitness, and disease prevention will be set up in the Wellness center.

For sports enthusiasts, the University's Bryant Museum will

be highlighted. This year's guest speaker is Verle Dexter from the Public Health department. Her topic is "Preventing Sexually Transmitted Diseases" at 12:15 p.m. Also, there will be fitness and karate demonstrations.

Wellness Center Director Dr. Milady Murphy said, "There is something for everyone at the fair, and it's free! Take time to walk through and experience, this!"

Softball cont'd from pg. 1

had to do to win, which is what you would expect of a championship team that has won the last two years. But I think we did real good to lead for the most of the game. If we do this well each time, I'll be real happy," said Ussery.

This season has seen several changes already; the change to playing at Gordon Davis Park in Cottondale for home games is one, and a switch to playing in Div. II is another. But fast pitch has been the biggest change in this year's program.

The team started using fast pitch at the end of last season, alternating it with slow pitch. This is the first full year using nothing but fast-pitch style.

Most junior colleges have already switched to the new style and it was an important step for Shelton to switch in order to keep advancing its program. Girls will have to be able to play fast pitch style to advance to the university level.

"When I first looked at coming to Shelton, that was the first thing I wanted to know. If they hadn't switch to fast pitch, I wouldn't have come to school here. Fast pitch is all I'm interested in playing," said Christi Hanshaw, starting pitcher for Shelton State.

Her sentiments are echoed by fellow team member Deana Bracknell, "It (fast pitch) was definitely a consideration

for coming here. I've played fast pitch for eight years and I like it a lot. Sometimes I get to play catcher, and I just love the fast action. It's a lot more exciting."

The rest of the team seems to be in good spirits about the change as well. "Everybody is excited about it. We're all enjoying it so far," says Allison Knight, herself an alternate pitcher who had to switch this season from slow to fast styles.

"I think the girls have adjusted pretty well. Most of them have joined this year have already played fast pitch. The rest are coming along fine," said Bobby Ussery.

Shelton's women have five returning players and some fresh new talent to dot the field with that are already standing out.

"We have several good players. It's an all-around good bunch. Our shortstop, Deana Bracknell, is playing well. Melissa Hall is doing well, and you couldn't ask for a better player than Cindy Martin," said Ussery.



Photo by James A. Crawford II

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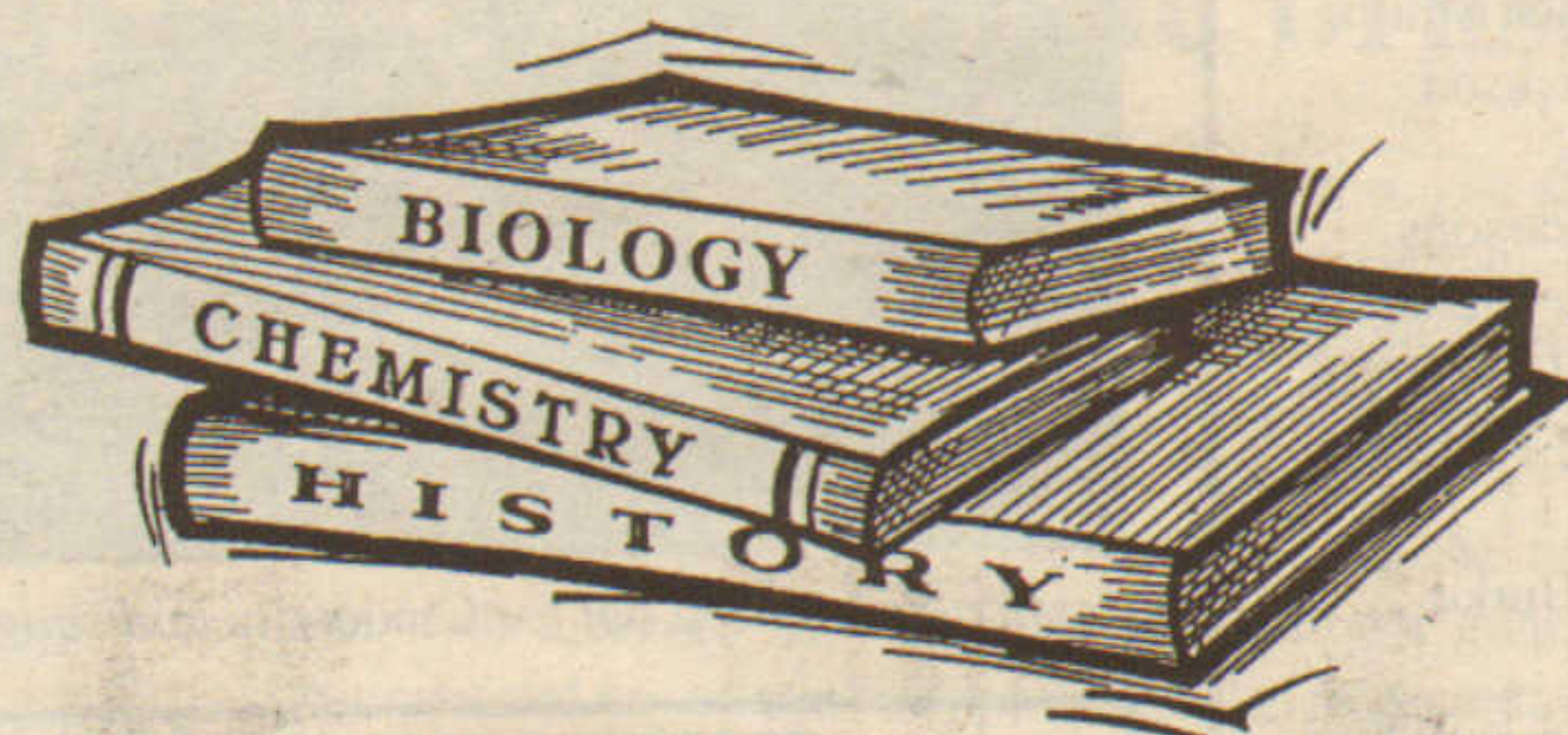
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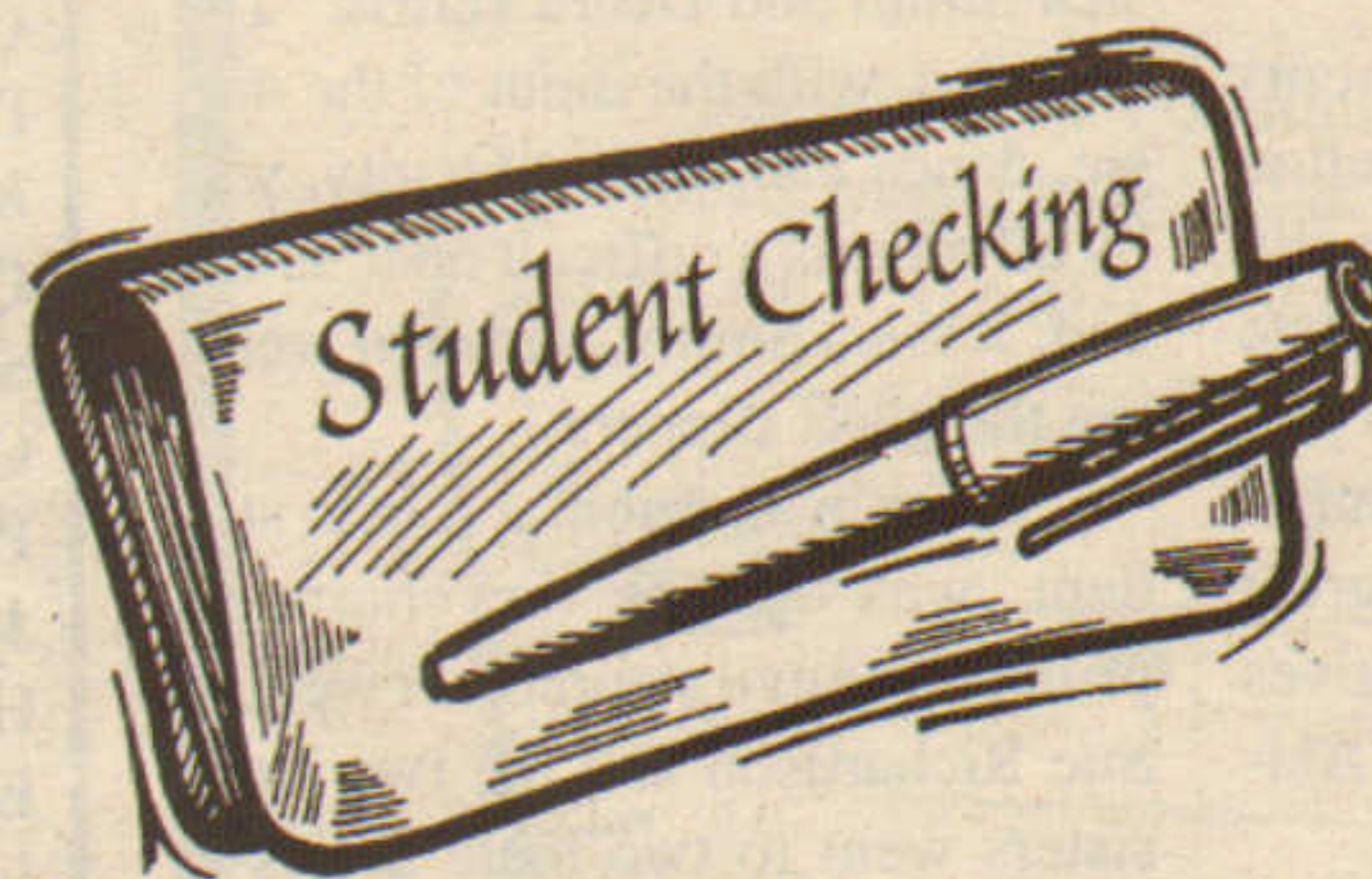
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T-Notes Stories from West Alabama's musical scene

By Kim Eaton

The Station was alive and kicking Saturday, Feb. 6, with the energetic performance of Blindman's Caravan. This very young group, consisting of Ward Campbell on electric and saxophone, Paris Vega on bass, Joel Smelley on drums, and Jamey Hamm on vocals and guitar, shows great promise in the field of music ministry.

With the raspy quality of Hamm's voice, this group could be described as a mix between Metallica and Creed.

About 75 people were awaiting the opening song of Blindman's Caravan, and when it was performed they were not disappointed. The crowd went wild and started a mosh pit when the band began playing "Crucify Him." A good characteristic of this group is their courage to write songs that have a point. They don't mean to condemn anyone; they just want the world to know their view on certain issues and they present this very clearly in

"Kiss the Pain." This song is meant to describe the Christian's stand against suicide; "you can never go too far that God's love can't reach you." "Blindman" is the key song behind the name of the group; it is taken from Matthew 15:14 and explains that if the blind lead the blind they will only fall into a pit.

One of my favorites was "Bullet in the Brain," which states their stand on abortion. With the emotional lyrics "echoing are the silenced screams from somewhere deep within the mother's womb a place that once held life and opened new eyes to light has now become a young child's tomb," it challenges listeners to wake up and consider what is happening in the world.

Other songs played include,

Blindman's Caravan comes rolling in

"Who We Are and What We Do" "The Running of the Bulls," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" with the jazzy mood of the sax joining the group, "Strange Dream," and the song of their beginning into this world as Blindman's Caravan, "Joel's Ga-



Blindman's Caravan performed at Tuscaloosa's The Station recently

Photo by Kim Eaton

rage."

Apart from music, Vega, Campbell, and Smelley are in high school, and Hamm is a youth pastor and music minister at Fleetwood Baptist. With any spare time left over after schoolwork, practice, and daily routines, the group, in general, enjoys activities like baseball,

tennis, painting, rollerblading, and field hockey. The group as a whole enjoys hardcore Christian funk bands such as POD, Blindside, and Living Sacrifice.

Jamey Hamm, lead singer and guitar, explains that the majority of their songs are written "about things that other people wouldn't sing about."

Ward Campbell also reflects over some songs and recalls that a few of them were written "about the pain in our lives." The group is unsure of their plans for the future, not knowing what each of them will be doing with their lives after they graduate. Perhaps Campbell says it best when he explains, "I believe we can do anything that God wants us to do."

Overall, it was an interesting night. Personally, heavy metal is not my favorite style of music, but Blindman's Caravan is a very talented group of guys that I believe will go far. Their music is lively and energetic and the group has a great time when performing. I would seriously recommend them to anyone who likes loud, hard-core rock music.

College has new operating hours

Effective Feb. 12, a new policy concerning the hours the college will be open went into effect.

The college will now be open Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. On Friday, the hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday it is open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. On Sunday the hours are noon until 5 p.m.

Career Fair set for March 11

The college's annual Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 11, from 9 a.m.-noon in the atrium of the Martin campus.

More than 200 students are expected to visit the various businesses during the day.

Some of the companies expected to participate include Bank of Tuscaloosa, National Bank of Commerce, Kelly's Services and Excel Telephone.

"The Fair enhances the opportunities for students, graduates, and the local community to explore the products, services and career options offered," said Shirley Johnson, coordinator of the fair.

Shelton Students to help with Habitat house

Shelton will join with Habitat for humanity Board of Directors and Holy Spirit Catholic Church of Tuscaloosa to build a new home in Tuscaloosa this spring that will result in a better life for at least one family in west Alabama. As part of this Habitat project, Shelton will work with Holy Spirit to frame up the house this spring.

The ground-breaking for this house was held in a terrific downpour on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, at noon in Oak Park, located on 35th St. and 9th Ave. across from Stillman College.

According to Bill Phillips, who is directing the project for the church, "Holy spirit built a Habitat for Humanity house last year during Lenten period using volunteer workers. This year, Holy Spirit wanted to expand the project and work in partnership with other groups rather than trying to

build the house solely with parishioners."

Dave Sanders, Shelton's carpentry instructor, was anxious to give some of his students some actual, hands-on experience in building a house. According to Sanders, the students were anxious to be involved in some community projects. Around 10 Shelton students will be responsible for the frame-up of the house, and parishioners from Holy Spirit will complete the project.

"Shelton is excited about being a part of this important community project. Our students will benefit by participating in a worthwhile service, while at the same time gaining valuable experience they can use later in their careers," commented Shelton President Tom Umphrey.

The project is scheduled for completion by late spring.

Bean-Brown Theatre to be setting for induction

Actress and author Fannie Flagg, the late actress Tallulah Bankhead, and philanthropists Mr. and Mrs. Winton Blount will be the first individuals to be induced into the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame.

This gala evening will be held on Saturday, April 24, at the Bean-Brown

Theatre, and it is to be sponsored by Shelton State and Theatre Tuscaloosa.

In addition to the award ceremony, there will be a cocktail supper and silent auction.

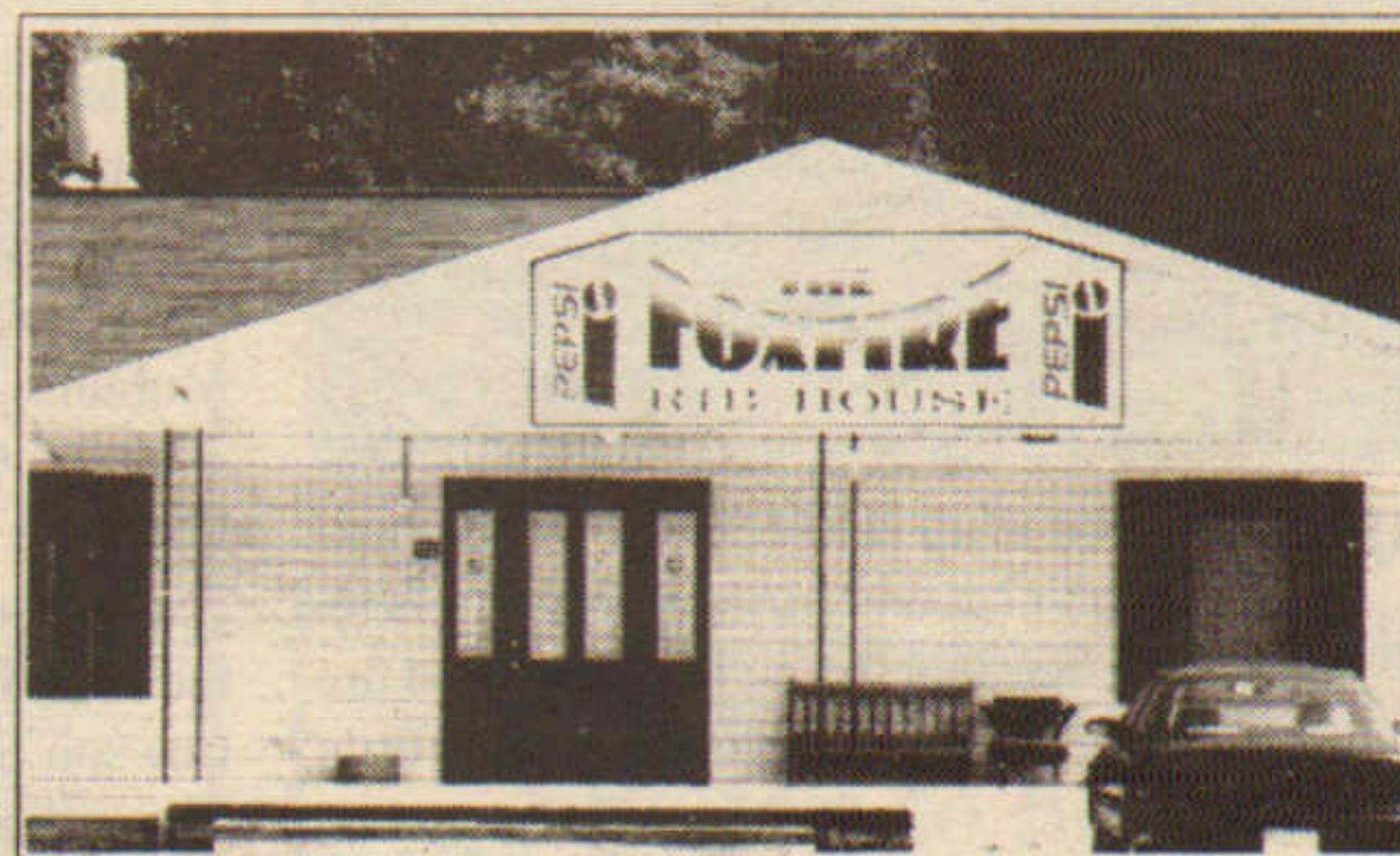
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Lights, Camera, and Action in Alabama

*The State's
underground film
scene*

By JoMicheal Nelson

On Feb. 19, at 3:25 a.m. I completed the final edit for my latest film. It is about a schizophrenic episode seen through a first person account.

This is my third "major" film effort, and most personal. The idea for the film came from my own family. My great-grandfather and grandfather suffered from schizophrenia and killed themselves in the end. My father and brother are both diagnosed with having it.

Schizophrenia is a chemical imbalance in the brain that causes the person with it to act irrationally and sometimes very violent towards themselves and others.

While writing the script, I talked a lot with my dad, brother and a few friends who suffer from it. There seemed to be a common feeling among them that it is part of them and helps make them who they are. Because the medication to fix the imbalance changes your

brain chemistry and affects the way you perceive things, a lot of people prefer not to take it.

The film is shot completely in Super 8 on black and white film. The editing process was long and tedious. I cut and spliced the film two times before going over the film with colored markers to add colors. After that, I went frame by frame and scratched letters into the film itself. One second of film is 24 frames, so I had to scratch the letters in 24 times so that they would be readable to the viewer. Then I had the film transferred to tape and added sound.

The film is a collection of strange sights and sounds I have collected over the past six months. Due to my own mistakes and bad foresight, I lost a lot of valuable scenes. I lost a shot due to bad lighting of a girl who let me pour milk over her feet into a cup of coffee. I had to cut a shot of a 4-year-old girl bending down to get a better look at a dead bird, because her mother would not sign the release in time for final edit.

At the same time, I cut scenes

Now Playing: An Assault on Logic

because they were not what I wanted to get across. I chose to cut a scene of a girl being slapped around. I did not want it to be a movie about violence, so that scene was gone.

In the end I hope ***** will be a 12-minute assault on the viewer's sense of logic and thoughts. I feel the end result is a film that will confuse and aggravate the audience. I want them to not only see and hear what it is like but to feel it on some level also.

I have no delusions of grandeur for this film. I plan on entering it into the Flickers Film Festival, the Auburn University Film Society Festival, and maybe a few others as the year goes on.

I just want people to see my film. I also plan on starting my next film in a few months, if I recover from the stress of making this one.

Editor's Note: The name of JoMicheal's film is five letters long and contains a version of what is known as the "f word," but without the "c." The second part of the word is "al."

SGA NEWS

The SGA recently announced that it would be holding officer elections March 18, 19, 22. Applications are due in by March 11 and campaigning will be the week of March 15-17 for the coming 1999-2000 school year that starts in the fall.

"We hope to generate some interest in the elections. We've made some good gains this year and we hope someone will be looking to step up and continue the effort," says Becky Avery, SGA president.

In recent weeks, the SGA has gone on a massive campaign to increase its presence here at Shelton. They have been conducting student opinion polls and giving prizes away at the basketball home games each week.

"For the past three weeks we have been having the SGA shootaround during the basketball games. Each person who wins gets a donated prize from an area sponsor. We had real good luck getting donations. Everyone was real helpful and wanted to participate," says Avery.

The polls are designed to find out how and where the SGA can have a better impact on the

student experience here at Shelton State.

In addition, the SGA has been sponsoring "students night out" events.

They have already sponsored a night at Leland Lanes bowling alley and are planning excursions in paintball, karaoke, skating and events here at the college including a statewide Leadership Conference planned for March 20.

"The leadership conference will be a wonderful opportunity for students to brush-up on their leadership skills. We would love for anyone planning to run for office here to especially try and attend the conference," said Avery.

For better convenience to the student body, the SGA has also added a Wednesday meeting time of noon in Rm. 126-A. They also plan to arrange a bi-monthly meeting for the Fredd campus.

"The new meetings are basically a test. We want to see if they will draw any more of the students into the SGA. If they work out, we'll keep them or consider changing the regular meeting time, if not we'll abandon them," said Avery.

Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—

Basketball reaching for the brass ring

By James A. Crawford II

Big Wins in the last games for the men and women give them confidence heading into their tournaments

Shelton State basketball takes its stretch-run with state and national tournaments starting up at the end of the week. Both teams are raring for action.

Shelton State's men's basketball has had a wild ride during the first season with new head coach Barry Mohun. The new squad has spent time developing skills and chemistry and it is looking for rewards starting this weekend.

"Tournament time is definitely a big time. You have to do the things that have been working for you, but you also have to try and play just a little bit harder. It's important to play aggressive, to

take it to people. We like to play fast already; that's what I prefer, but in tournaments you have to strive for even more," says men's head coach Barry Mohun.

Shelton's men ended the season with a record of 17-12, and their second big win over the first-place Div. I Lawson State and are looking to the weekend for a little fun.

"The Lawson game was very important. It was a big factor in how things turned out in terms of placement in the state tournament, which starts on Saturday. We've been told that we'll be playing Gadsden State at 5:30. The win over Lawson was big for us; it put us where we needed to be. It gives us a better frame of mind and it shows the men that they can play with anybody if they come out ready to play," said Mohun.

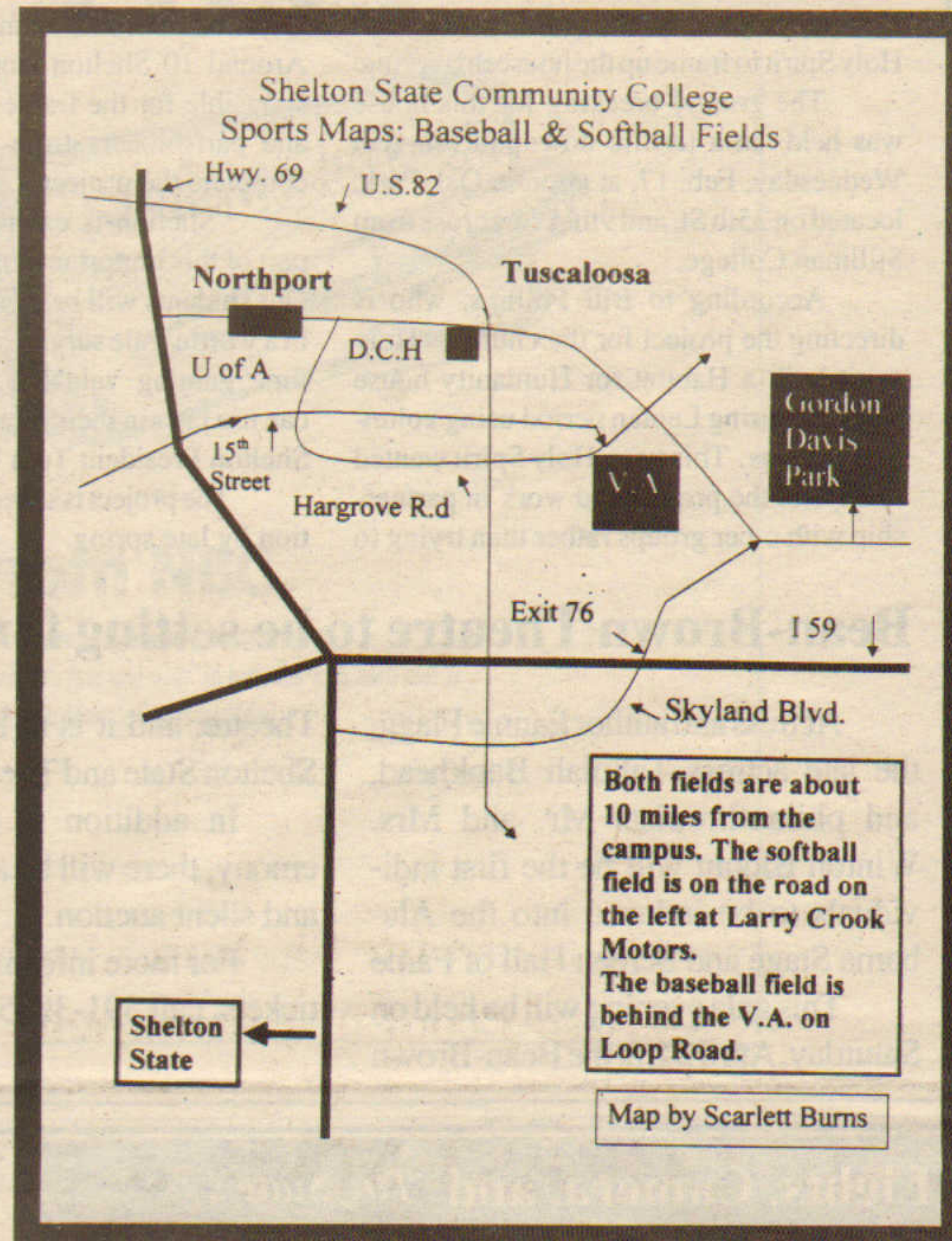
"We like to look at the tournament as being one game at a time. But the added pressure is each game is a season unto itself. If

you win, you advance. If you lose, you go home. We want to lay it all on the line each game, then go home and get ready for the next one," said Mohun.

In the other lockerroom in Shelton's gym, the women have also managed to put it all together at the end. With a win of 70-58 over Lawson State, they finish the season with a 14-12 record.

The win was much needed. After a six game winning streak, the women lost several in a row to bad shooting and what seemed to be fatigue.

"For a while there, we were doing so well, then we sort of fell apart. But the game Monday night against Lawson State was very good for us. The girls played hard. Everyone felt good and shot well. This is what we wanted going into the tournament. It was definitely a big boost for us mentally. It meant a lot to head into the tournament with a win," said Madonna Thompson, women's head coach.



Freshmen look to boost baseball Buccaneers

By Daniel Pettey

For most people, baseball is a sport that takes place in the spring and summer, but for Coach Bobby Sprowl it's a year-long pre-occupation.

Sprowl travels all year, going from one ballpark to another, trying to get the best talent to play ball for his team.

Recruiting is always one of the largest parts of collegiate sports simply because it's what decides who plays where. This year, it seems coach Sprowl has pulled together a great recruiting class that should pace his team for a good year.

Coach Sprowl started his off-season by signing two players who were drafted by major league baseball teams: his own son, short-stop John Mark Sprowl, from Panama City, Fla., and right-handed flame-thrower Brandon Medders from Tuscaloosa—a former player at Hillcrest High school.

Staying in the state of

Florida, Sprowl snagged infielder/pitcher Matt Moyer and outfielder Nate Rodgers both from Tampa, Fla. "Nate's looking really good in the outfield; he has incredible arm strength," said fellow player and freshman catcher, Josh Bridges.

Also from out of state, Jonathan Coomer, a left-handed pitcher from Bowling Green, Ky., is now on the team.

With all of this out-of-state talent, Coach Sprowl did manage to grab up some locals: infielder Wes Williams, catcher Josh Bridges, infielder Lance Bowlin, pitcher Matt Fields, and catcher Chad Smith are all from the Tuscaloosa-Northport area.

"We're as good as we've been in the last ten years," says baseball Coach Bobby Sprowl.

These are just a few of the players on this year's roster, but there are many players that have a good chance at getting some quality playing time. This year's class didn't seem to be focused on filling one position in particular but

all of the positions, and it looks like Sprowl did just that.

"We have good leadership in the nine returning sophomores and if we can jell together we have a chance at a great season," said Bridges.

For Coach Sprowl things are looking up this season for Shelton

State baseball. With a solid returning group of sophomores and a talented group of freshman, this year promises to be an exciting one for the Buccaneers.

The question now is will the team come together as a team and live up to the coach's and the players' high expectations. Only time will tell.

Golf team comes out swinging

Shelton State's men's golf team started its tournament play Feb. 22, at Briarwood Country Club, in Tyler, Texas.

Shelton started off in grand fashion by tying the number-one ranked team in the nation for first place at their own tournament in the opening day round.

"I'm real proud of the boys. They're doing real well under extreme conditions. The weather has been real cold. It was 38 degrees when we tipped off Monday at 8 a.m. and the wind was at 30 mph. We ate them up in their own backyard. I think that's doing pretty

good," said golf coach, Jim Collins after the first round.

At the end of the tournament on the second day, the men had placed second behind Tyler, shooting a team total of 598, behind Tyler's 586. Lon Morris of Jacksonville, Texas, placed third out of 15 teams with a 599 total.

For Shelton, Jason Dillard had a 146 total for the tournament, Danny Germaine had 148; Chris Jones had 151; Drew Jones had 153; Nick Member had 158.

The men play again March 1, and 2 at the Musgrove Invitational in Jasper.

Games Coming Up

Men's Basketball:
Feb. 27- Mar. 2 AJCCC Tournament at Bay Minette. The men play Gadsden State Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball:
Mar. 2-6 AJCCC Tournament at Muscle Shoals

Women's Softball:
Feb. 25 Alabama Southern at HOME
Mar. 5 Enterprise at HOME

Men's Baseball:
Feb. 27 Gadsden St. at HOME
Mar. 2 Meridian at HOME
Mar. 6 Bishop St. (2) at HOME
Mar. 7 Bishop St. at HOME

Men's Golf schedule:
March 1, 2 Musgrove Invitational
March 7, 9 CACC Invitational
March 19, 20 Marion Institute

Players of the week:
Men's basketball: Undrae Lilly—Lilly comes to Shelton from Montevallo. He had 25 pts. against Lawson St. Monday night
Women's basketball: Desiree Archie—Archie comes to Shelton from Montgomery

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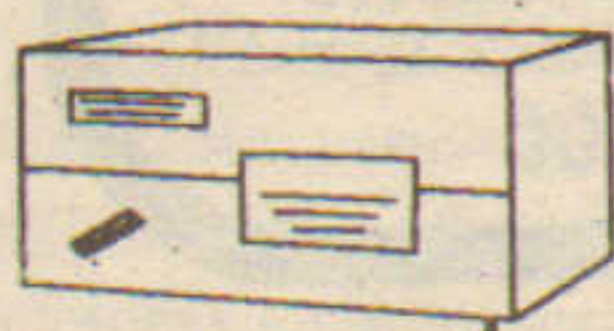
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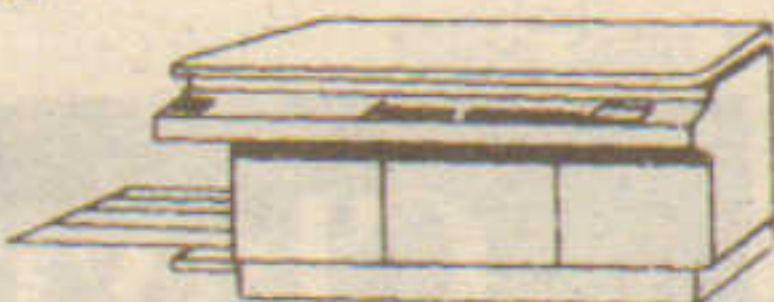
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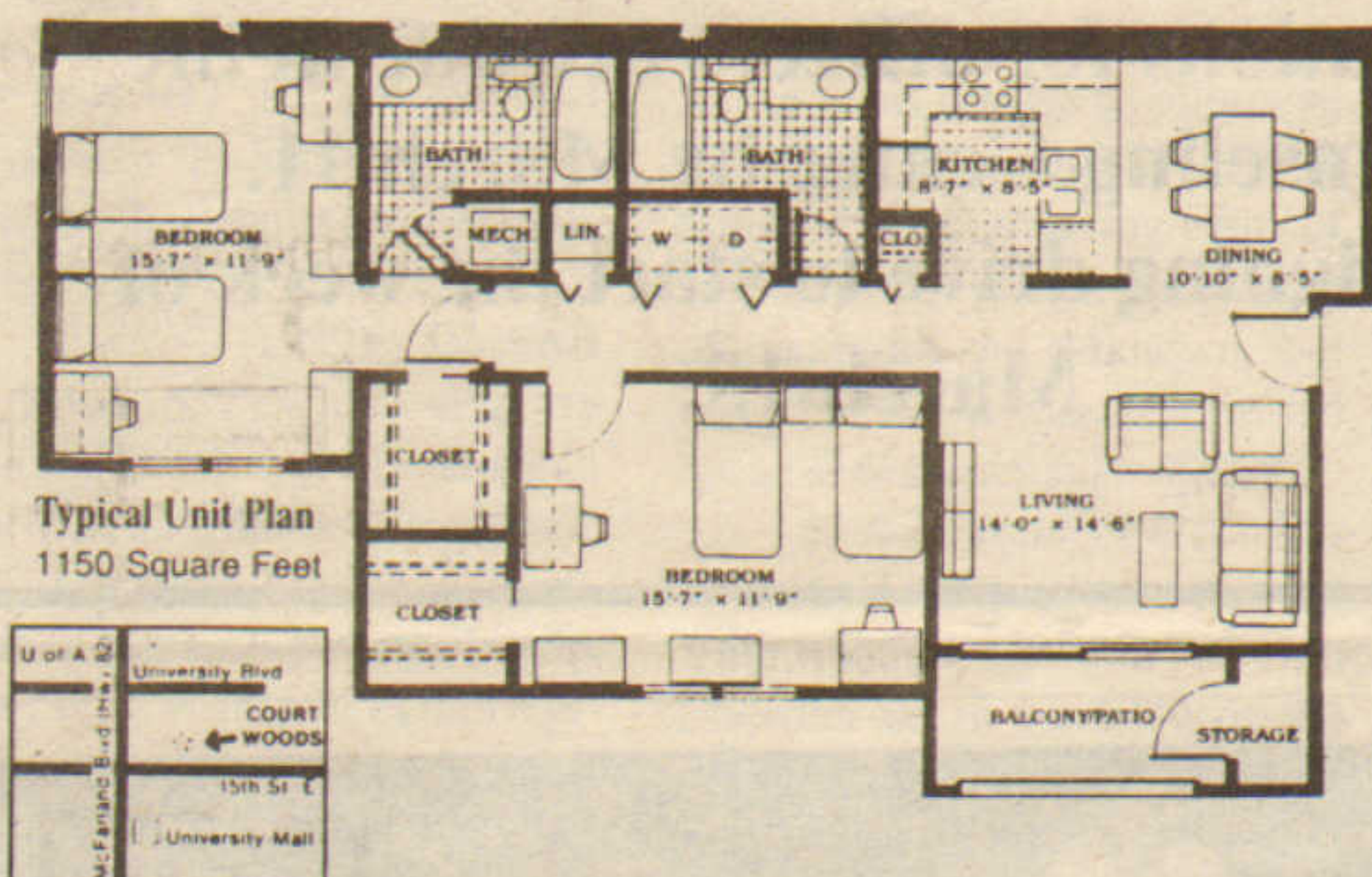
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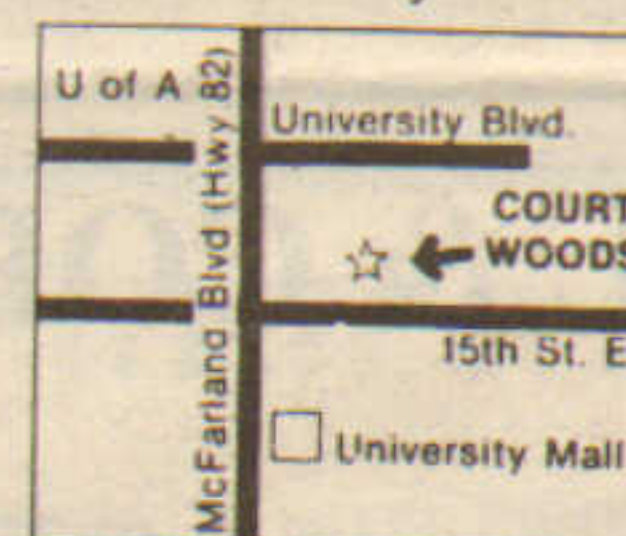
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